

Message Text

SECRET

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)
SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S VISIT: TOPICS TO DISCUSS IN SAUDI ARABIA

REF: (A) STATE 15325, (B) JIDDA 638

1. WE BELIEVE FOLLOWING TOPICS WILL PROBABLY BE MENTIONED DURING SECRETARY VANCE'S VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA. WE WILL BE SENDING MORE DETAILED COMMENTS SEPTELS. WE EXPECT THAT CROWN PRINCE FAHD WILL BE THE PRINCIPAL ON THE SAUDI SIDE, WITH ASSISTANCE FROM PRINCE SAUD.

2. POLITICAL SUBJECTS:

A. FAHD VISIT TO U.S.: THE ATMOSPHERE DURING THE SECRETARY'S VISIT WOULD BE GREATLY ENHANCED IF THE SECRETARY COULD PRESENT A FORMAL INVITATION FROM THE PRESIDENT FOR PRINCE FAHD TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES AT AN EARLY DATE.

B. MIDDLE EAST PEACE SETTLEMENT: SAUDIS WILL BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN USG VIEWS ON PROSPECTS FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, SPECIFICALLY THE TIMING AND COMPOSITION OF A GENEVA RECONVENED CONFERENCE, AND THE USG POSITION ON PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION. THEY WILL STRESS NEED TO GET ON WITH IT.

C. SAUDI REGIONAL POLITICAL ROLE: COMMENT BY THE SECRETARY CONCERNING U.S. APPRECIATION FOR SAUDI ARABIA'S CONSTRUCTIVE POLICIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST, PARTICULARLY THE ARABIAN PENINSULA,

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PERSIAN GULF AND RED SEA REGIONS, AND FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF MODERATE ELEMENTS, WOULD BE WELCOMED. SPECIFICALLY, THE SECRETARY MIGHT MENTION OUR JOINT ENDEAVOR TO REDUCE SOVIET INFLUENCE IN NORTH YEMEN AND EXPRESS HOPE THAT SIMILAR PROGRESS CAN BE MADE IN SOUTH YEMEN.

3. ECONOMIC SUBJECTS:

A. OIL POLICY: THE SECRETARY COULD EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR POSITION OF SAUDI ARABIA AND UAE AT DOHA ON OIL PRICING POLICY. IT WOULD ALSO BE USEFUL IF THE SECRETARY COULD INQUIRE ABOUT FUTURE OIL PRODUCTION AND PRICING.

B. THE BOYCOTT: WE DO NOT BELIEVE THE SAUDI SIDE WILL EMPHASIZE THIS SUBJECT EXCEPT IN THE CONTEXT OF IMPEDIMENTS TO GOOD SAUDI-US RELATIONS. THEY WILL, HOWEVER, BE MORE EXPLICIT IF THEY APPEAR TO BE THE TARGET OF ANTI-BOYCOTT LEGISLATION IN THE CONGRESS WHICH GOES BEYOND QUESTIONS OF DISCRIMINATION AND SECONDARY AND TERTIARY BOYCOTTS ON WHICH SAG HAS SHOWN CONSIDERABLE FLEXIBILITY.

C. EGYPT'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS: THOUGH THE SAG DOES NOT NORMALLY APPRECIATE ADVICE ON INTRA-ARAB AFFAIRS, THE SECRETARY MIGHT WISH TO INQUIRE CONCERNING THEIR VIEW OF EGYPT'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. BECAUSE HE WILL HAVE BEEN IN CAIRO BEFORE ARRIVING IN RIYADH, THE SECRETARY COULD SPEAK WITH THE AUTHORITY OF HAVING BEEN FREASHLY BRIEFED ON EGYPT'S NEEDS.

D. LEBANESE RECONSTRUCTION: THOUGH A SUBSIDIARY ISSUE, THE SAUDIS ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO SEEING ORDER AND PROSPERITY RETURN TO LEBANON.

4. MILITARY SALES AND REGIONAL SECURITY SUBJECTS:

A. ADVANCED FIGHTERS: THE SAUDIS MAINTAIN THAT THEY HAVE A FIRM COMMITMENT MADE BY KISSINGER AND CLEMENTS TO SELL AN ADVANCED FIGHTER AIRCRAFT (THE SAG HAS TOLD US INFORMALLY THAT THEY WANT TO PURCHASE 50 F-15'S); THEY ARE LIKELY TO PRESS FOR A REAFFIRMATION OF THIS COMMITMENT DURING VISIT, IF NOT SOONER.

B. MAVERICK AND SIDEWINDERS: THE SAUDIS AGREED TO OUR CUTTING DOWN THE NUMBER OF MAVERICKS AND SIDEWINDERS IN FMS
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SALES CASES SUBMITTED TO THE LAST CONGRESS ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT SALES CASES FOR THE REMAINING MISSILES OF THE TWO TYPES WOULD BE QUICKLY SUBMITTED TO THE NEXT CONGRESS.

C. THE SECRETARY SHOULD EXPECT INQUIRIES ABOUT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S POLICIES ON ARMS SALES IN GENERAL.

D. USNAVY'S USE OF MASIRAH ISLAND, AND CONTINUATION OF MIDEASTFOR BEING HOME-PORTED IN BAHRAIN: WE DO NOT RECOMMEND THAT THESE LAST TWO ISSUES BE RAISED DURING THIS VISIT UNLESS IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED THAT THEY ARE OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE TO U.S. INTERESTS IN THE REGION.
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